

Newspaper of Current Events in the Highlands, the Islands and in Scotland

incorporating THE LOCHABER DIARY

THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1967 DI-ARDAOIN, 24 AN LUNASDAL, 1967

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SCOTLAND'S BI-LINGUAL NEWSPAPER

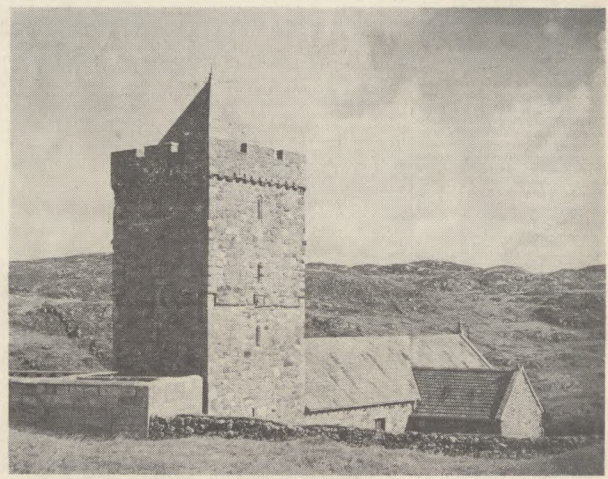
Hopes Soar For North Industry

The types of project in the news last week have caused the hopes of those who wish to see an industrial North of Scotland to rise considerably. But one requires huge amounts of electricity at a cheap tariff which the north cannot offer at present.

The first project which could come north is a smelting plant with a capacity of some 60,000 tons per annum; it would provide employment for up to 500 people. Three weeks ago the Board of Trade were approached for permission to set up the plant. The application was made by the Swiss firm of Aluisse. Some dozen sites in Britain have been offered to the firm, six of which are in Scotland. The firm's technical director has said that Invergordon provides most of their requirements, though the entire project would be decided on the provision of a supply of bulk electricity at a very cheap tariff. It is known that another two aluminium firms wants to set up similar plants in Scotland. Hopes have also risen for

the setting up of a chemical plant at Invergordon. Occidental Petroleum has just arranged marketing facilities in Europe for the output of its rich oilfields in Libya. The extent of the Company's operations is now on such a scale that a refining plant is required to be built somewhere in Europe, and Invergordon has already been considered on the basis of its potential for development.

The cloud of doubt over the building of the firm's project in Britain may well hinge on the outcome of plans for successful marketing arrangements of fertilisers which would be produced by the oil refinery. At present there is a surplus of capacity in Britain. This fact may cause the firm to build in Europe.



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, RODEL, HARRIS

Rodel once had a direct ferry link with the mainland. Boats of 55 feet and over can gain access to the privately-owned pier, though the entrance to the pier anchorage is safe only in fair weather. At the height of the kelp-burning last century, Rodel was a focal port for a fleet of ships between Harris and Clydeide. The nearby area of Lingerby provides employment to some 10 people from Leverburgh/Rodel to work the anorthosite and pegmatite deposits there. Rodel Hotel has 22 rooms giving accommodation for 29 people. During the summer 12 people are employed at the hotel. Proposals for development have been made. First a passenger ferry between Rodel and Newton in North Uist, then the conversion of the derelict R.A.F. camp site at Rodel, which could accommodate some 20 caravans. The area around Rodel township is also suitable for tourist chalets and the development of rock-fishing.

(Photo by Angus MacArthur, Stornoway)

Scrabster to be main north port?

The Harbour Trustees at Scrabster have drawn up a development scheme for the harbour which could realise its commercial potential.

At present Scrabster offers shelter for many boats when the weather is foul in the storm-tossed Pentland Firth. But the minimum draught the harbour can cope with is 14 feet at low water. The trend for vessels to have bigger draughts means that Scrabster is becoming a tidal harbour with restricted facilities for the vessels who have most need of them.

The new scheme is for an 800-foot pier and ancillary buildings; the estimated cost is about £500,000. The Government would have to provide the money for this scale of development. As three other harbour development schemes have also been prepared by other north ports, the matter of providing full port facilities on the Pentland coast is going to be one of concentrating on one or two ports and letting others decline.

The Highlands and Islands Development Board have been approached for help to conduct a feasibility study.

With the real possibility of some large-scale industrial development in Caithness, the trustees of Scrabster harbour may well see the port—which does not require constant dredging—becoming a focal point for the Pentland coast.

Nas Lugha De Fhuath

EDAR NAN GINEALACH ANN AN ALBA ?

Chaidh 600 gearan a dheanadh ris a'bhord ris a' bheil e an eirbha fhaicinn nach eil gear-leannhainn air a dheanadh air feadhainn a duthchannan cein a tha a'fuireach is ag obair ann an Breatainn, ach is e ceitir dhuibh a chaidh dheanadh ann an Alba.

Thuir ball dhe 'n bhord gu robh e creidsinn nach robh uibhr de dhi' ainmheist eadar nan ginealach ann an Alba, ach thuir e

£100,000 AIRSON LUCHD-SGRUDAIDH A' CHANSAIR ANN AN ALBA

Thug Buidheann Impireachd Bhreatainn airson Sgrudadh Aobhair a' Chansair £100,000 do 17 dotairean agus fraillsanach ann an Alba.

Fhuair an Dotair J. Paul faisg air £25,000 airson sgrudadh a' dheanadh air hormon fais (growth hormone) a'chuirp ann an Oil-gh Oilbhairdchdainn.

Seo feadhainn eile a fhuair fiodhlaic airgid bho 'n Bhuidhinn seo:

An Dotair K. E. Hainan, anns an Western Infirmary ann an Glascho, £12,450; Mgr. T. C. Carter, Roinn Sgrudaidh Chearca, ann an Duneideann, £11,284; am Procasair J. N. Davidson, Roinn Ceimic a' Chaisp (biochemistry), Oiligh Glascho, £9,004.

cuideachd gur docha gum b' e a' bhobhar dha seo nach robh daoine dubha deonach air gearan

ach gu robh iad a'fhaicinn is an rud suarach a chaidh a dheanadh orra a dhi-chuimneachadh. Thuir e nach robh an Achd a bha a' buntainn ris a'ghnothach seo farsainn gu loir.

Faodaidh sinn a radh gu bheil na rudan sin fìor mu dheidhinn Shasain cuideachd ged a tha uibhr de ghearan 'ga dheanadh ann sin.

Dheanann triuir a Pakistan gun d'chaidh tair a dheanadh orra ann an tighean-seinne ann an Glascho.

COINNEAMH NAN BANABHUISICHEAN

B' theadar coinneamh a bha gu bhith ann an New York airson bana-bhuisichean a' tsaoghail a chur dheadh gum am faigh an feadhainn a tha 'ga gairm a mach an e bana-bhuisichean ceart a tha ann an feadhainn a tha ag iarraidh a dhol dha 'n coinnehn. Thuir fear dhe 'n fheadhainn a tha a' gairm na coinnehm gu bheil aca ris an fheadhainn a' tsaoghail a' dhol ann a' sgrudadh 'gu' mean.

HOUSE TO LET

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Inverness Cream SCOTCH WHISKY

Birth

MORRISON — At Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 4th August 1967, to Barry and Catriona (née Macdougall), Garden Cottage, Tomatin, a son (Jan Laurie), a brother for Carol.

Marriages

HOLT — COLLARD — At Christ Church, Lochgighle, on the 14th August 1967, by Right Rev. Duncan MacInnes, M.B.E., M.C., Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, Patrick Henry Edward Loch, Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), younger son of Major A. H. E. L. Holt, M.B.E., M.C., and Mrs Holt; Blar-chagair, Appin, Argyll, to Penelope Anne, daughter of Captain P. L. Collard, R.N. (Retd.), and Mrs Collard, Lochhead House, Ach-sohoir, Lochgighle, Argyll.

YOUNG—MORRISON—At Kilmore Parish, Perth, August 1967, by Rev. A. D. MacRae, M.A., uncle of the bride, assisted by Rev. J. Bremner, Wallace, Young, only son of the late Matthew Young and of Mrs Young, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, to Eilidh, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Morrison, Penmore Hill, Dornie.

Deaths

CAMPBELL—Suddenly in Edinburgh on 13th August 1967, Samuel younger son of the late Samuel Campbell and of Mrs Alexandria Campbell, Tableview, Hillside, Durvegan, Skye. Interred at Dunvegan.

MACPHERSON — At Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on 12th August 1967, Mary Macpherson, late of Portree, Skye, beloved wife of Hector Macpherson, 29 Nairn Street, Glasgow, C. 3.

MACRITCHIE—At the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on the 14th August 1967, Annie MacRitchie, beloved wife of the late Malcolm MacRitchie, of the Schoolhouse, Doune, Carloway.

Text for the Times

Agus chan n' fhad ògach an Tighearna bh' coispeidheach ach cùin ris na h-uile dhaoine, ealamh chum teagsaig, foighnidheach.

II Thimoteùs C. 2. r. 24. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, gentle.

Gaelic Broadcasts

Thursday, 24th August
12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Donn (Verse & Chorus)
Gaelic Midweek Service conducted by Rev. Colin I. MacLean, Stornoway (recorded).
7.00 p.m. V.H.F. "In the Highlands." An all sorts magazine—comment, interview, music and song from Gaeldom (rec.).
9.45 p.m. Letter from New Zealand, from Donald F. MacKenzie (recorded).

Friday, 25th August

12 noon News in Gaelic.
12.05 p.m. Da Cheathramh agus Fonn (Verse & Chorus) "Eadarinn Fhein"; A program for women, prepared by Christie Dick (recorded).

Saturday, 26th August

10.5 p.m. T.V.—Se Ur Beatha: A Gaelic Welcome by The Innis Gaels and The Albanachs with Kirsteen Grant as guest artiste (recorded).

Arasaig Agus Morar

"Morar bhòidheach Mhìc 'ic Ailein, Arasaig is Loch nan Ceall"

Faigean

'Se sin a thubhairt am bard agus tha na teaghlach aontachadh leis feathast ann an latha an diugh. Co-dhuibh chan fhaigh sibh aite seasmh as t-samhradh eadar caraban a'chais is paillean nan Gall. Ach tha barachd ann na bòidheach ged is gnòthach mor sin gun teagmh. Tha caochraich cluicteach ceangailte ris agus gu h-àraid tha slugh da gsa Gaidhealach ann. Dirrach mar tha a' chùis am Gluictear 's e seo dùthaich Clann Donnainn, Raghnaillach air taobh a deas Amhunn Mhoir agus Garrnach air taobh tuath ach chan eil d'fhàid sa bhith eadar an da sheorsa an diugh. Ged a tha na cinn-cinnidh air fàilbh o chian tha na daoine sin feathast eadar Donnainn, Clann 'ic Echainn, Gosaich agus 'chuid eile.

Tha Arasaig a toiseachadh

agus an do leag 'ta' cheud Mr Astley' e.

Thog e taigh ur aite faisg air Borradh, tha a thann barail bòidheach an t-àit 'ic' coimhead 'cho coltach ri prìosan.'

'S e baile beag ciatach a tha ann am Bail 'Arasaig no Ard nan Fuaran mar a thubhairt iad ris 'san t-seann àirde. Tha e 'na sheasamh aig ceann Loch nan Ceall is Rudha Arasaig air Ceall deas agus Ceapach is Rudha na Ceipich air taobh tuath. Chìc sibh bhualaidh a seo Sgurr Eige is beannan Ruma.

Tha mo cladh tha seo, Cille moir Ruibh gè aosta. Is cinnitheach gu robh e ann roimh ann an Alb-leasachaidh agus air taobh a stigh tobhta na seann eaglais tha leacan a thainig a I Chaluim Chille is dealbh sagairt air te dhùibh is claidheamh mor air le eile. Ann an caibèil beag a tha an ceann na tobhta tha uaighen Clann 'ic Dhughall Mhoir agus comhla ritha tha Aonghas nan Core na laighe, an duine borb a spad Dughall a cheud fear dhùibh.

Tha an uaigh aig Alasdair Mac an Abla, oilgear ann an àirm a Phrionnsa aig Blar Chuil-lodair anns a' chladh cuideachd. Thoghadh Mac an Abla an Innis Eoghann faisg air a' Chrìancharlach ach dar a dh' fhuas e seann chaidhe e dh' fhuireach comhla ris a' nighèan aige. Bha ise posda aig Iain Mac Raghnaill 'ic Aonghas 'ic Iain ann am Borradh air an do chaochail e. 'S e eaglais Chaitligeach a tha ri taobh a' chladh agus chaidh an cloc mor a' thair air an stòipal aice a chur ann mar chiumhrèach air Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair. Fad ionmhad bliadhna bha craobh phalamaid a' fas 's a chladh ach tha i nist marbh.

Dar a ruigeas sibh mullach an droma a tha air an taobh tuath dhe 'n bhaile, aite ris an can iad

fo sgail na Creige Moire. Cluicteach sibh uicteannan fhaisthad mu dheidhinn Chùirt na Moinntich Moire. Thachair so mu mhèadhan na linne seo chaidh. 'Be dithis de dh' uchdaran na dùthaich, amadàn nan dùn, a lha sabaid mu dheidhinn boglaich nach fhaichadan roid.

'Se Port nan Luchag a their iad ris a' cheud bhàil fearainn a tha ann am Morar a deas. 'S ann an seo agus an Traigh a tha a' ghnèineach bhana a tho cho ainneil. Tha seorsa do mhachair ann cuideachd a tha lan chabhan-èineach as t-samhradh. Chan ionghnadh sin chionn 's bha na traighean 's na raointean da rìradh aluinn leis an Eilean agus Ruma is Eige air faire.

B' abhaist dachaidh Dhonnainn-lach Mhoir no Clann 'ic Dhughall a bhith faisg air seo. 'S an t-seann àirde bha bocan gun mhadh nìmhèil gan feartainn ris an canadh iad "Colann gun Cheann." Bha e na chleachdadh aice feitheamh airson nan daoine seo agus an ceann aice leagal tuiteam agus orra ann an duil am marbhadh. Dh' fhas fear dhùibh seachd searbh dhith agus chur e roimhe cur as dhi. Latha bha seo thainig e orra faisg air aite ris an can iad "Achadh Deilicisig agus choisich an comhstri.

Chum iad ris fad an latha gu brisheadh an ath latha dar a fhuair eusan lamh an uchdair oirre. Thoisich iise air ranach 's air eighèach. "Is com lam le do bhiodag bhiorach ach cum bhuan do ghluinnan mhòr." Dar a' chùis eusan sin chum e air le a' ghluinnean agus an d' thainig an fhuil roata aise. Mu dheireadh leig e air fàilbh 'ic an toiseach cheall is ris nach tillaidh i gu brath tuilleadh cheud fad 's gum bitheadh gin de Chloinn 'ic Dhughall 's an dùthaich. A reir na tha mi a' cluinnint na feadhain dhùibh ann fhaisthad ged a tha dùthaich aca fo spogan nan Gall.

'Se Raghnaill Mac Ailein Oig an sloinneadh a bha aig an duineach seo, pioabair ainneil a bha ann a rinn am port "A Ghlas-mheur." Tha deagh chumhne aig muinntir na dùthaich air fhaisthad.



BORRADAIL

Clacharachd chithear sealladh cho aluinn 's a tha anns an t-saghal eadair Cul na Ceipich na Ceimbe, na b-eileanan beaga, na sgeirean agus Ruma is Eige is e an t-Eilean Sgìtheach air faire. As t-samhradh tha a' chearn seo loma le de chumhairèan. Tha e iongantach gu bhèil toilleachas sam bhith aca a bhith nan drobh mor mar a tha iad, coltach 'ic Donnainn MacLeod a' Galta-irgill 's an Eilean Sgìtheach air a' stiùir. Bha Donnainn posda aig puithair Aonghas Mhìc Iain. Co-dhuibh thainig e air ais da thorus e aig 'ic Borradh agus air an latha mu dheireadh chaidh e air bord long Frangach agus bha an gnòthach ullamh agus gu leoir eile mar a ceunna.

Air cladaich Bhoradail tha fear dhe na caistealan a thog muinntir na Linntean-nà. Air taobh tuath Loch nan Uamh tha Rudha Arasaig, aite aluinn eorm a bitheadh gè fhearagach airson ceannan agus roibh eadann a' chuir Lord Cranston air fàilbh iad corr is ceud bliadhna air ais. Dh' fhaibh an neart dhùibh null fairis do Cheap Breatainn far a bheil am port aca fhaisthad is Gaidhich ann an "Inverness County" an sin. Chithear fhaisthad air an rudha na crìomagan gorma fearainn agus no teannagan a' bha aca an lùb nan sean bhàiletan mar Gaoideal, Torr a' bheithe, Lag a' Mhuilinn agus Sandaie far an do dh' eug Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir Alasdair.



BORRADAIL

Tha sibh aig crìch Arasaig dar a ruigeas sibh an Cairm an amhuan a tha tighinn on Mhoinntich Mhoir. Fairis air an drochaid tha Morar a deas no Morar 'ic Dhughall. 'Se aite comhraid bog a tha 's a' Mhoinntich Mhoir ann an cois na beinne. Air an taobh an ear thiodh tha trì thuathanais. Ceann na Leotha, Creag Mhor is Suanaisleitr a tha

"Sa rìgh bh mhatht mo chumhne Fhaicinn cruinn 's an eaglais mhoir Tri cheud do phoball aluinn Smior nan Gaidhich gu 'n da bhroig."

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Lochaber To-day

A DAY TO REMEMBER

The Queen comes to Lochaber

The combined pipe bands of Fort William, Ontario, and Fort William, Lochaber, played a stirring welcome on Fort William Pier as the Royal yacht "Britannia" slowly came to a halt at a prepared anchorage in Loch Linnhe, bringing Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, and Prince Andrew, to Lochaber, on Saturday, 12th August.

The Royal Barge drew into the landing stairs, and the Royal visitors came ashore, accompanied by Secretary of State for Scotland Mr Wm. Ross, M.P., and to a general salute from the bands.

They were greeted by Lord MacDonald, Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire, and Provost Canon George K. B. Henderson of Fort William.

Civic representatives and citizens were introduced to the Queen, and a vast crowd of spectators lining the uphill route from the pier applauded the Royal Party in a most hearty manner.

The Queen was presented with a bolt of Lochaber tartan and signed the visitors book before moving off to her engagement at the Lochaber Pulp Mill.

As the cars moved slowly through the town, the Royal party were warmly greeted by thousands of people lining the streets, which were decorated for the occasion.

The Queen's car slowed down several times as she expressed interest in some particular group or building. This was especially evident when passing the Belford

Hospital, where the patients and staff filled the forecourt.

Out past Inverlochy and Claggan, the cheers continued to greet the Queen, with the Aluminium factory workers, and the staff of the Ben Service Station all helping to keep the road to Lochy Bridge bright and cheery.

Past crowds at Lochy Bridge and Banavie Bridge and on to Corpach, to another sea of faces, cheers and flags, over the weighbridge, the Royal visit to Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills had begun.

The Queen was introduced to the Wiggins Teape Management, and Prince Andrew was also introduced to Mr Merrick Baggallay, Mill manager, and, being a

tall chap (perhaps just like Dad?) he stuck close to him during the tour of the mill.

The visitors were shown the "Chipper Building," a log transporter, the "De-barker," and the wood-yard. They proceeded to the engineering workshop, where Mr Wood, works engineer, explained the maintenance operations being carried out, and their importance in this remote area. Both the Queen and Prince Andrew saw the wood chips being blown up a pipe to the Digesters, and were given a brief look at an explanation of this large, noisy building, before being taken up to the complex control room of the washing, screening and bleaching department. Mr Peter Wallis was the guide for this stage, and he held the attention of his charges

through the various cleaning processes to the pulp baling department.

On entering the machine house, Her Majesty was introduced to Mr A. Vickers, her guide through this building containing the paper-making machine. Here Prince Andrew was not quite sure about the working of the "West End," and had to have a word with his mother to get the position cleared up. Then, back to his adopted "uncle" for the day, Mr Baggallay. At the finishing end, where the paper is cut and packaged to customer requirements, the Queen and Prince Andrew were shown some of the cut paper and the uses it is put to. The progress of the visit was held up for a short time while Mr J. Begg explained the workings of a modern gullotine.

The warehouse and its vast amount of finished paper ready for dispatch marked the end of the visit for the Prince and Lady-in-waiting, but the Queen held a short reception in the Mill Restaurant, where she met a cross section of the Mill staff. On signing the Visitors' Book before leaving, Her Majesty was presented with a bouquet from Miss Margaret MacDonald. Thus ended a memorable day for the Scottish Pulp and Paper Mills.

The journey back to Fort William was a repeat of the outward journey. Lochaber was "out" to greet the Queen, and as the "Britannia" sailed out of Loch Linnhe and on round by Skye, she carried, as well as the Royal Party, the loyal good wishes for their safety, from the hospitable people of the Cameron country.

NO PIPE BAND!

Dear Sir — I would like to draw your attention to a matter concerning the Caol Games. My family and I were looking forward to the games on Saturday, and how nice it was going to be to see and hear the Pipe band; my boy loves it. To our dismay we found this was not to be — no band at the Highland Games! The Fort William and District Pipe Band were engaged to play at the Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry.

I think their place should have been at the Caol Games; this is a big day in Lochaber. The people of Fort William and district, by their support, have put the band on its feet again. Good luck to Lochiel and his family, but we missed the pipe band.—Yours, etc.,

C. O. NEILL.

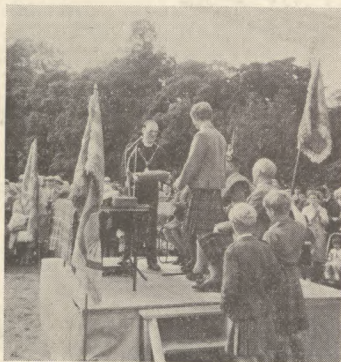
A NOD FROM HOMER

We regret the inadvertently incorrect caption which appeared in our last issue. We said that the Celtic stone was outside the Glencoe Museum. Unhappily, Miss Fairweather of the museum says this is not so, much as she would like it. The photographs have, however, aroused a great deal of interest and tourists have been pleased with their visits to both museums.

Lochaber Events 'In Camera'



Fort William, Ontario, Pipe Band, on its recent visit to its Lochaber namesake, entertains on The Parade



Above Provost Canon Henderson hands over the gift on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Fort William, to Donald Angus, Younger of Lochiel, on the occasion of the Clan Gathering held at Achnacarry Castle to celebrate his coming of age.



James McCoil (rather puffed on the left) after a wrestle with "heavy" champion Arthur Rowe



Fort William and District Pipe Band entertaining the many guests who attended the Cameron Clan Gathering on 5th August

NOBLE PILLGRIMS GOVERNMENT

GRIM PROSPECT FOR HIGHLANDS

Speaking at the opening of the Lochaber Conservative Highland Fair, in Fort William Town Hall, on Saturday, August 12, Mr Michael Noble, M.P. for Argyll, said it was high time the people should look critically at what three years of Socialist Government had done for Scotland—and the Highlands in particular.

"The picture for this autumn and winter is grim indeed," he warned. "Unemployment figures are rising sharply, the outlook for farming and the store sales are far from bright, and this must affect shopkeepers and others who benefit greatly from a prosperous local community.

"That iniquitous piece of nonsense the S.E.T. continues to drain nearly three million pounds a year out of the Highlands, and distorts what should be the proper economy of our area.

In addition to these troubles, there has been a slowing down in forward programmes for roads, schools and many other public works in the Highlands. While good plans are made to develop extra B.D.C. services in the South, little, if anything, is done to improve the services to these parts of the Highlands where for the same licence fee people can only get a small part of the national network. Worse still are the areas where there is no reception at all. It is much to wonder at that under Socialism the emigration figures climb each year to a new record.

Mr Noble continued—"Let me dwell for a minute or two on the performance of the Highlands and Islands Development Board. No one believed their task was easy or could change the Highlands overnight. They have a number of useful and sensible schemes

to their credit, but their public image has been very much damaged by the ostrich like attitude of the Secretary of State who, though fully aware of the good time refused to take the necessary action to prevent a major scandal and now, typically refused an enquiry which could clear the government's reputation of being perhaps unfairly blackened. Lack of decision and fear of the truth are no friends to the Highlands.

"If the present looks black enough, there is no need to be afraid of the future. In Fort William you are seeing the build up of a great new industry. Perhaps there are teething troubles, but it will grow and flourish. Elsewhere there are many good examples of what industry can do in the Highland area. A.I. Welders at Inverness is an example of what good use of government and local skill can do to compete even internationally from a Highland base.

"The Government, Mr Noble summed up—"What must we do to release the potential of the Highlands? First we must get rid of the Socialists and the Liberalism too, for they have contributed little or nothing except support for abortion and other curious changes in our laws in the last three years.

"We must abolish S.E.T., and we must back our native industries of farming, fishing tourism and forestry. We must also look for and support every Highlander or incomer to the Highlands who can start and maintain a new business.

"We must make life in the Highlands more attractive and no more expensive than in any other part of the country. The Liberal conservative target, and we alone have the will and the power to do it."

FAILTE!

With this third issue of 'Sruith' incorporating the Lochaber Diary we would like to take the opportunity of extending a warm welcome to Lochaber readers. The readership of the Diary was widespread into districts such as Treshaig, Glencoe, Glenfinnan and we would like to include them in our welcome. The town of Fort William influences and is influenced by a number of villages in the surrounding area and 'Sruith' intends to treat news from these villages with equal importance.

The columns of 'Sruith' are always open to your letters, feature articles and news items. If 'Sruith' can encourage a community spirit amongst these scattered villages, promote the benefits of communicating their problems, their solutions, etc., then we will have achieved a great deal towards strengthening a true West Highland community. A bi-lingual paper such as 'Sruith' is eminently suited to the requirements of the area where there are Gaelic and English Gaelic speakers and we trust they will find something of interest in both languages.

Make 'Sruith' YOUR fortnightly paper.

FISHING BOAT ABLAZE IN STORNOWAY HARBOUR

Fishermen had to wear breathing apparatus to fight a fire which broke out late on Saturday night in the engine room of the 65 ft. Lossiemouth fishing boat "Fionach" in Stornoway's private harbour. Substantial repairs had to be carried out to the engine and the hull.

Ardnurchan District Council

PROBLEMS OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT

At the Council meeting, last Thursday, the subjects under discussion were as pressing as can be expected on the "Forgotten place"—over 160 miles of roads; the Bridge at Ault a Coltran, and the lighting of Ardgour, Ferry Bridge. The District Council representatives came from Ardgour, Kingairloch, Morven, Sunart, and Ardnurchan, an area of approximately 1,600 square miles. The A.861 starts north at Lochelside, comes east along the loch, then south by Loch Linne. At Inversanda it starts its westerly run to Salen, where it is downgraded to a "B" road—the B.907 out to Achnochty and the Point of Ardnurchan. South from Carnoch and Inversanda are the A.884 and the B.8043, meeting at Lochusgue, with the A.884 continuing to Loch-uan, where it is degraded to B.849 to Drimmin. These roads are a nightmare to drivers of all motor vehicles—few passing vehicles, but many long steep hills; in other words, all the faults of the Highland road system in one area.

Ardnurchan nursery Forest in Morven and other plantations in Sunart come wood logs to the pulp mill at Annat, Corrach, by the A.884, being transported by the 10 tons. The A.861, a trolly bridge has been declared unsafe for this traffic, and it will be at three years, before a new bridge can be built.

In the meantime, the District Council wants the Argyll County Clerk to open the road at the A.861, where it is possible to be done to it to make it suitable for heavy traffic. If wooll haulage cannot be resumed along it, there is a possibility that some forestry workers may become redundant.

A crossing from the Ardnurchan, which is available at Ardgour; this saves a long journey round Loch Eil. In an emergency it is essential that the ferry at Ardnurchan can start its swift crossing, particularly at night; yet after more than a year no progress has been made to lighting the slipways. Workmen have been making the required connections on the Inverness-shire side during the week, but nothing has so far been done on the Argyll side to enable the ferry to start on at any time. The ferry, having a Board of Trade licence to operate after dark, is also essential. The Council is pressing for this application to be dealt with.

The problems on this peninsula are curable like all other districts of the West Highlands, provided there is an attempt to inject both people and capital into the area. A District Council, like every other, has a duty to improve improvement programmes if they have the capital, and as money does not grow on trees, it can only come from some other source—population. Some may not agree with this thought in their isolation, but to bring the West Highland area into the West we have able-bodied, working people entitled to live here.

CEUD BLADHNA

Bha a' Bhean Usal Mor Chaimbeul a Frobost Uihist-a-Deas 100 bliadhna dh'aois Diaroinn a chaidh a' phrìomh gearr air rheil-làidh-naidheach oirre agus na sinn an dochas gum bi omadh latha sona eise fhathast. Se phuathar do dh'Aonghas Beag Mhic Ill Fhàilteach M. MacLeòid maireann a th' ann an Mor agus thug i' thein iomadh seinn eich-draigh do Fhear Channaidh is do Chloinne MhacLeòid.

We heartily congratulate Mrs Marion Campbell, 6, Frobost, on her 100th birthday. Mrs Campbell (née Mhic Ill Fhàilteach) was our first mayor. Her Angus MacLeòid, M.B.E., a former Chief of Inverness Gaelic Society.

Faichinn Bhuam Am Fèilidh Beag

'Se 'n i-fhèilidh, se 'n i-fhèilidh.

'Se 'n i-fhèilidh beag bu docha leam."

A h-uile uair a bhithes na Ceiltich cruinn aig a cruinneachadh bliadhnaibh bidh mi fhìn, agus theagamh feadhainn eile, a' cruinneachadh mo cheidhean aodach nàiseanta. 'B' ann mar sin a bha an Cardiff am bliadhna mar am bliadhnaiche eile.

Bhithidh na fir an comhaidh a' gearan air an tìdh a th' aig na boireannaich ann an aodach, ach chithear a' cheart fhàilligeadh, mae's fàilligeadh a th' ann, anns na fir fhèin air uairean. Tha an da-iartras, mar gum 'b' e, aig obrachadh comhla agus uaireanan an aghaidh a' chèile, siad sin, a bhith coltach ri daoine eile, a bh' ann, agus tha meas air aodachdhan sraoichte an dlùth-cheangail ris an obair sin. S' tric a chuala mi mo sheamhairg air ràdh, agus a' bh' bhoadadh a' bheith ladarna na h-innseachan, a' tighinn aon dùilleig ri Shakespeare, 'B' ann duine a t-aodach, 's chan e a' cholladh bhreaghadh."

Chi sinn an dràsta, sa rìthid daoine a' tighinn an seo bhòidhachan eile, a' cleachdadh a' bhùineas iad faodaidh truas a bhith againn riutha. Bhithidh sinn an dochas gu bheil badan blatha leth riutha fo na lùdeagan faoinne latha a' rinn faicinn a' chum s'g seas iad an fuachd is an t-uisge ri a' bheith sin cho cleachda.

Tha slughan nan dùthchannan eile a' bh' a' theobh nam fear bhòidhachan eile, a' cleachdadh ri eideadh nam Breantannach, dìreach mar a' thead a' gabhail ri an canan. 'S feudaidh gu bheil meigin tincheall air an t-seasaidh a' bhriogais, an lèine, is mar sin air adhart, a' tha gan deannam air chuid deaghann is comhfhàilteal do na fir. Tha na boireannaich gun treamhor nas dàna a' theobh dath is cumadh na chuireas iad umpa.

Aig comhfhàiltean nan Ceiltich chi sinn uaireanan boireannaich. Maibh, as 'A' buimrig' air a' Breatainn na Frainge 'a' cur orra adan farsaing is aprain eircrachail a' leigeil fhacinn do chach de an dùthach do - m bun iad. Feumaidh na fir aca mar as trice a bhith riaraichte leis an eideachd chumant; Bhèrtainnach.

Chan 'sèin do na h-Albanach e. Nam measg, siad an aig a' bheith an t-eideachd eadar-dhealaichte an dà chuid an cumadh is an dathan. 'G' e' e' co' che' d' Ceiltich a' cleachdadh labhras aig na coimeannan, as grinne a sheinneas aig na ceiltichean, no as d'icheallach a' cleachdadh a' chumant nàim measg fhèin, cha tig dìmeas sus ris na Gàidheil nuair a thig e gu d'raeasaghe.

Chanèil mise a' dol a ràdh gur e suidheachadh fallain a' sin.

Tha mi g' ràdh beag mi chùisean mar a' theid, chan e mar bu chòir dhaibh a bhith. Fhuair mi cleachdadh a' sin Ghaidhealach air aon de rùintean A' Chomhainn, ach chanèil e ach suarach taica ris a' phrìomh-rùn, se sin, bruidhinn na Gàidheil.

Cha chruideadh e foghadh orm ged a' bheithidh cuid dhe na Ceiltich eile gum bu chòir do na h-Albanach na bu lùgha air a thoirt do d'raeasaghe agus barrachd do bhruithinn na cànan. Fhuair mi dearbhadh fada roimh S'Charidh nacheil iad idir cho cruaidh oirnn ri sin.

Aon bhliadhna thuirtear fear a' Breatainn na Frainge riutha gum bh' mthath leis eidead Ghàidhealach fhòsant. Thug mi ainm thàitèir air an Glaschu da agus chunnac mi an mòr-thoileachd e' uair is uair an deidh-thuid air a' speachadh mar a' d'iar e. Tha aon fhear co-thuid as 'A' Chòirn cuideachd le feilidh air a' h-uile bhliadhna.

Chanèil fhiosad a bheil na h-Eireannach ro chrinteach a' bhòidheachadh a' bhèidh, S' docha gu faod amharus a bhith aig feadhainn gu iobh cuid dhe air sinnean a' cuideachadh an cumail fo cheannas mun d' fhuair feadhainn a' bhèidh, sin chaid iad a' deannadh dìmeas air an fhèilidh uile gu léir. Bha dannsair agus comhla riutha an Cardiff agus b' fèilidh a' bh' airsin aig eacarsach nan cuirnean feaggair.

Tha na Cumirich a' deannam uile a' adhartas na cànan agus 's' ann dhaibh a' tighèadh. Mar sin shaoileadh dìne nach bhèidh iad a' bodraigeadh mu ghnòthachd ann an aodach, ach chan ann mar sin a' bh' Bha sinne a' bruidhinn ri d'ithis bhana-Chuimreach am bùtha-coifi an Cardiff. Bha iad laghadh ged nach a' bh' Cumirich aca. A' fòrt tarrainn air an eideadh Ghaidhealach thuirtear iud cum cual iad gu robh na Cumirich air a' dhol cho fada ri tarann a' theaghadh airson feilidh Cuimreach. Ma rinn iad sin 's' cinnteach nach d' fhuair iad dìne thastach a' chuireadh air iad cha robh gum fhacinn aig a' Chomhdhal co-thuid.

Smaite gum bi cuid dhe na Ceiltich eile an dùil gu bheil na h-Albanach aig agairt còir àraidh air an eideadh seo agus nach còrdadh a' rùna fòsant air fèincheat eile. Chanèil seadh no briugh anns a' bheachd seo. Ri Cuimreach no Frangach no Ruisèanach a' bh' bhoadadh a bhith teaghabh mu fhèilidh a' cur uime beirinn-sa an aon fhreagair a' fhuair a fear a' bha a' fòighneachd an faodadh e a' cleachdadh a' rùna fòsant air fèin. B' e an fhear a' fhuair e gur e an aon n' a' tha a' dearbhadh còir air feilidh de sheòrsa sa bhith gu bheil risat aig dìmeas o' n' tallair air a' shòn.

Alm MacLeòid

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Deserted Hebridean Islands

 by F. G. THOMPSON

Islands are mostly remote points of land, separate, insular and each quite remarkably different from its neighbour. This is the way of it with Hebridean islands — whether they be large island-masses, such as Lewis-with-Harris, or pin-points of rock as that in Loch Roag in Lewis: Sgìr na h-òan Chaora (One-sheep Skerry), presumably so-called because there was sufficient grass on it to fatten a single sheep.

The Hebrides are much like Greece: One of the few places in the world where islands have had a long history of human occupation and social significance, and retain a semblance at least of an ancient culture in the twentieth century. There has always been a peculiar fascination for islands. Whenever one becomes vacant, through depopulation, its desertion generates genuine concern and interest.

The continued evacuation of islands is a problem peculiar to Scotland. In the eighteenth century, some eight per cent. of Scots lived on islands. To-day the figure is less than two per cent. Island populations to-day account for about thirty per cent. of the total population in the crofting counties of the Highlands.

The problem for most islands is the relationship between population density and their potential for economic development. For most islands, too, the point at which hyperbolic (population decline) and parabolic (increase in expenditure to maintain economic viability) curves meet

actual populations he does describe islands as "inhabit and manurit," at least indicating that they supported at least a family. In the Dean's time an estimated 130 islands had a population. From then there is a slow decline until the middle of the eighteenth century. The decrease in population has been an average of five islands every decade. In 1961 73 islands were inhabited (or 82 if one includes lighthouse islands).

Throughout the history of the Hebrides, many islands have lent a colourful thread for its warp and weft. Some have been large in size, once supporting many

and robbed the islanders of their bull. Nor was this all. Bad weather held up supplies from Lewis for about a year, and when a relief boat did manage to reach Rona all that ancient race of Romans had died. On occasion after that the island was colonised. In 1844 Rona was evacuated, its last inhabitant being, in the seventh year of Queen Victoria's reign, the "King of Rona," Donald Macleod, who lived in almost prehistoric conditions.

To-day, man's only connection with the island is maintained by the small party of Lewis shepherds who, each year, make the journey to shear the sheep which still graze on the green slopes around the now ruined village. Apart from these visitors, only the occasional traveller now lands on the island. In June, 1956, North Rona, with its associated rock, Sulaisgair, was declared a National Nature Reserve, on account of the island's importance as a breeding ground for its colonies of oceanic seabirds and for its seal colony.

Twelve miles west of North Rona lies Sulaisgair, a lonely rock in the Atlantic. It is bleak and grassless, and is tunneled by many caves and gullies. The only life it has ever supported is seabirds — officially. Yet one of the buildings on it is said to be a chapel and is called Tigh Bheannaich (House of Blessing). According



GUILLEMOTS ON NORTH RONA

Illustration by M. E. Pullar Thomson, 17 Viewfield Road, Inverness

there are the Shiant Isles, about four miles offshore, across the Sound of Shiant (Gaelic: charmed, enchanted). There are three islands in the group — Eilean an Tighe (House Island); Garbh Eilean (Rough Island) and Eilean Mhuire (Mary's Island).

In 1845 one family lived on the largest island, Garbh Eilean, which is joined to Eilean an Tighe by a low storm beach. This family was lost by falling over one of the great precipices which are a feature of this island group. These islands belong to the same age of volcanic activity that resulted in the strange columns of Staffa and the Giant's Causeway in Antrim. The mass of cooling molten rock slowly crystallised and changed in composition; the early-formed crystals sank to the bottom, the later ones being found near the top. The Shianters are the eroded relic of this mass. In 1851 there were 2 males and 4 females; in 1891, 3 males and 5 females; and none since. The last family there upped and went to Tarbert, Harris. For one member of the family — a girl of 21 — it was her first visit to the outside world. Records show that at one time in the islands' history some 16 families lived on the three islands and worked small crofts. Their spiritual needs were provided for by a chapel, the ruins of which can still be seen. To-day, the Shianters are used for grazing sheep.

The St Kilda group of islands is perhaps one of the best-known. The islands have an extensive literature — for their size. When the population was evacuated from St Kilda in 1930, the move broke for all time almost two thousand years of continuous island living. The islesfolk were taken off at

their own request, after much careful and serious deliberation by the St Kilda "Parliament." Life on Hirta, the only island of the group that maintained a permanent human settlement (dependent on sea urchin that breed in their tens of thousands on the cliffs of Hirta, Boreray, and the great stacks of Scaig Antrim and Stac Lee. The flesh of puffins, gulls and terns was the staple diet of the St Kildians. The oil and the feathers of these birds were the vital exports that paid the island rent to Macleod of Harris, the owner of the island group. These exports also helped to pay for the purchase of such foodstuffs as salt, sugar and tea, and other items which the island could not itself supply. The St Kildians owned some hundreds of sheep, the wool from which was woven into tweed. A few cattle were also kept. But the seabirds were the foundation of the island economy.

The factor which ultimately led to the desertion of the island group was isolation. This made the islanders almost a human menagerie in an age which was drawing the remote corners of the world nearer by air and ship. St Kilda is now preserved by the National Trust for Scotland as a crumbling monument to a small human tragedy of the kind that has been repeated, and will be repeated, in other small communities who cannot argue out the case for their survival in terms of economic viability. The island is now occupied by military personnel in connection with the Hebridean Rocket Range on South Uist.

The Sound of Harris has been described as a "chaos of rocks and islands." They are in fact so numerous that they have never been counted. Some are mere pinpoints of rock. Others once supported small populations. Nearest to the southern shore of Harris is the verdant and arable island of Ensay, two miles in circumference. The peak population was 15 in 1861. Now the island supports a seasonal population of shepherds. Just south of Ensay is Killegray, two miles long. The south end had deer, moose and was uncultivated, but useful for peats. The north end was cultivated. There were five people on the island in 1821, but now the island was the domain of one family.

Pabby is another island typical of the Harris coast. Early last century it had some one hundred people. Like so many other places of its kind it was "cleared" of its people who found new homes in Australia, Martin, Sturtun, writing of Pabby, tells us that:

(Continued on Page Twelve)



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF VILLAGE BAY IN ST KILDA

Illustration by M. E. Pullar Thomson, 17 Viewfield Road, Inverness

to indicate the optimum time in history for such development is in the distant past of history.

It was not until 1861 that the census authorities made an effort to enumerate the inhabited islands of Scotland. The 1861 Census Report also stated that an island is "any piece of solid land surrounded by water, which affords sufficient vegetation to support one or more sheep, or which is inhabited by man." This definition excludes "all mere rocks which are the resort of wild fowl, unless the same are of sufficient extent to afford pasture to one or more sheep, when they are considered as islands . . . The male inhabitants of the islands, in addition to the usual mortality from diseases, which affect all alike, whether on mainland or on island, are exposed to the additional dangers arising from their only road or highway being across the dangerous channels which divide islands from island or from mainland, and through fierce currents run. The deaths from drowning are consequently very numerous during the year, and tend to render the proportion of the sexes more disproportionate than they would otherwise be."

The Hebridean islands have been written about for many centuries. One of the first authors and observers of the Hebridean scene was Dean Monro, 1549. Although the Dean does not give

hundreds of people. Others, quite small, have still been able to be socially significant.

The island of North Rona is the most northern point in the Lewis parish. Though the island has never figured in any Census Reports, since the Census began it has been inhabited from time to time. It is a small island of about 300 acres. It is cliff-bound and reaches 355 feet at its highest point. It lies in that part of the Atlantic where there seems to be a perpetual deep swell; for its reason landings on the islands are sometimes rather difficult.

The people on the island whom Dean Monro described were no recent settlers. They were in fact a continuation of a community which had inhabited the island for at least seven hundred years previously. Tradition has it that the first inhabitant was St Ronan, who built a small monastic cell or hermitage on the island at some time during the eighth century. It is not impossible that Rona was inhabited before Ronan landed there. Records tell us that the island was fairly productive and supported the people who took their surnames from the colour of the sky, the rainbow and the clouds. Some time after 1680 there came tragedy. Somehow, probably off a wreck, a swarm of rats landed on the island and consumed almost all the food. A few months later some seamen landed

to the traditions of the folk of Ness, Lewis, Sulaisgair was once used as a prison for sheep-stealers; and it is also said that Brehndia, sister to St Ronan, was left on the island to perish. Yet another tradition has it that it was at this rock that Prince Charles Edward Stuart made his first contact with his Scots clansmen, when the ship that carried him to Scotland was spoken to by a Ness boat making for North Rona.

On the east coast of Lewis



REMAINS OF THE OLD CHURCH AND GRAVE STONES ON NORTH RONA

Illustration by M. E. Pullar Thomson, 17 Viewfield Road, Inverness

SRUTH

DI-ARDAOIN, 24 AN LUNASDAL, 1967
THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST, 1967

Carson Gaidhlig co-dhiubh

Cinnteach gun cuala sinn uile 'a' cheist sin tric gu leoir agus ged nach e ceist cheart a tha innte agus ged nach eil an duine a tha 'ga cur ach a radh nach eil feum idir anns 'a' Gaidhlig, bu choir dhùinne, aig a bheil uidh anns 'a' Gaidhlig, a bhith comasach air a freagair.

Canaidh feadhainn, agus nam measg daoine cho ammeil ri Niall Gun, an sgrìobhadair, nach deadh e difir sam bith dha an Gaidheil ged a chaidleach iad an canain, gun deadh fadh. Beurla an gnòthach dhaibh a cheart cho math. Shaoileadh feadhainn nach deadh e moran difir co-dhiubh dh' iarradh duine an rathad gu Gearr-loch ann am Beurla no anns 'a' Gaidhlig ach tha sinne 'a' smoinnteachd gu bheil difir ann, agus difir mor.

Dh' fhadamaid a radh gur e canain bhreaga a tha anns 'a' Gaidhlig, gur i seann chanain na duthcha, gu feum duine Gaidhlig a bhith aig airson ainmean aiteachan anns 'a' chuid as motha de dh' Alba a thuigsinn, gur d' fhiach 'a' Gaidhlig a cumail suas airson a bardsach a leughadh, no gur i bha aig Adhamh is Eubh anns 'a' Gharadh, agus is e an fhìrinn a bhitheadh againn. Ach tha aobhar nas cudromach na iad sin ann airson na Gaidhlig a chumail beo.

Is fhada bho 'n' thuir Seumas MacThomais gu bheil doigh beatha slauha taigse anns 'a' chanain aca agus is e seo smear na cuise. Chan e cho bregha no cho tlachdmhor agus a tha feadhainn eile 'a' faighinn na Gaidhlig (ged a tha seo feumal cuideachd) 'a' bu choir a bhith 'gur' brosnachadh airson a cumail suas, ach an call a bhitheadh ann dhùinne, na Gaidheil, nan dreigheadh i as. Tha seanfhacal aig na Cuimrich, "Cenedh he iath, cenedh he galon." 'S e duthaich gun chridhe a tha ann an duthaich gun chanain,' agus duthaich gun chiumhne cuideachd.

Tha slugh a chail an canain coltach ri duine a chail a chiumhne, no pairt de chiumhne. Cha chuir coigreach uidhearsach sam bith air. Cha taing atarrachadh sam bith a choltais. Tha inntinn, a reir coltais, cho gear agus a bha i roimhe. 'S urrainn dha obair latha a dheanadh agus a bhiaidh a ghabhail. Ach tha fios aig a chairdean nach e am fear a bha ann roimhe a tha ann a nisidh. 'S e an t-aon seors difir a gheibh duine dha 'n' aithne eadar taobh an iar agus taobh an ear na Gaidhealtachd.

Drugs Of Society

The 'in' word these days seems to be 'psychedelic,' immediately associated with the current trend to resort to drugs as a stimulant for pleasure. But this is no new thing; perhaps we have come to a space in time when a full cycle is being completed. Some 100 years ago the taking of opium, along with other forms of outrageous anti-social behaviour, was symptomatic of the Romantic revolt against conformity. De Quincey and Francis Thomson made acknowledged contributions to English literature from backgrounds of drugs. And was it mere coincidence that the stresses and strains of the times led to the sufferings of sensitive minds and caused such a high proportion of the writers from the beginnings of the break-up of Augustan security onwards to suffer from melancholia or insanity, the extremist form of 'alienation'?

Today it is not only the creative being who looks to some form of escape which can offer a guarantee to break the mind off from the realism of our times. We live in a drug-orientated culture, tea, coffee, alcohol, tobacco, drug-based medicine. And not only these but there is a widespread addiction to mass circulation daily newspapers and to weekly journals, and to that great new "opium of the people," television.

Somewhere along the way to these present times we have lost the knack of being part of a human-orientated society of the type which yielded much spiritual richness in the past and could do so again. In this kind of society the creator was the inspiring force; to create was to make something worthwhile of life, to allow human dignity to be recognised. Not for nothing did Blake, William Morris, John Ruskin, Tawney and others argue that considerations of moral values cannot be ignored or subjugated to a form of social organisation centreing principally on bankers, on industrialists and politicians, all with a yearning to administer a social mass.

Since the industrial revolution the psychic reserves which once enabled men to resist inevitable advances in techniques and technologies have been rapidly diminished, so that today the capacity to resist is insignificant and there must be turning to a form of mental stimulant: drugs, at the moment.

It is a pertinent question to ask what it is that creates a need in millions of people for drugs at all, and why in the modern era of compulsive mass addiction we are moving surely towards increasingly grosser forms.

PENSION ON YOUR PENSION

It's too late to worry about welfare when you say "Farewell."

To say "Farewell" is a rare state, comfortably cushioned against disaster. Most of us are safely enrolled on a company pension plan, scheduled to receive substantial-sounding benefits in the distant days when at last we lay down our briefcase, pick up our marble clock and set off to savour the unimaginable delights of retirement.

Nine out of ten executives, who nurture these cosy dreams of eventual ease and semi-opulence, are in for some drastic disillusionment. By which time, it will be too late for them to do much except seek further employment as

survive you. If she is younger than you are, her life expectancy will be considerably greater. A recent survey showed that twice as many people wanted pension cover for their wives as opted for any other special benefit. If you choose to give up part of your pension to protect your wife, this means a reduction of nearly a quarter in the pension you can expect to get, even if she is the same age as you are. If she were, for example, seven years younger than you and you retire at 65, your joint pension would be less by more than one-third than the amount you would get on your normal pension.

5. And what about chronic illness?

Suppose in mid-working life you develop a chronic illness that prevents you from working but doesn't do you in. What then? Very few company schemes cater for this contingency. You get what charity the firm can offer, plus your pension contributions paid back as a lump sum very often in such a way that they become liable for income tax. However, for those with sufficient foresight, there are special schemes which cover this dark possibility for a comparatively reasonable price.

The time to ask these important questions was probably fifteen years ago, but it is certainly not late to start now. It is well worth a little probing discussion and a few consultations with the experts to ensure against stepping out of harness into hardship.

(Reprinted with permission from *The Pemberton Quarterly*).

TEXT

"Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God, believe also in me."

A plague of neon climbs her ministrations. The heaven of Luxembourg makes her harmony.

Creel clamped to back she knows Jerusalem as the hen knows the hand that scratches seed.

Out of the waving weather of the morning pecking in the heaven of its god.

"My father's house has many mansions."

There shall be Bed and Breakfast for you all.

Baths are extra and there's much to see in the deer's antlers hanging on the wall.

Servitors shall have the nicest of the best.

And porters with grey uniforms and facings shall pack your luggage for the night.

Where helmets gauntly ring in early visions.

"Let not your heart be troubled" O Jerusalem, how on bar fields your daisies growing wild

circle the wistful gravestones of your doom.

Plays in the shade your bright bilingual child.

Ye believe in God and in these solid mansions.

Salmon trout and grouse in quietness feed and purple-visaged landlords stalk with sticks

on the moorlands varied by their tweed.

"Let not your heart be troubled." You have seen the jukebox purpling faces with its glow

of alternating weather, as a perished tartan is woven from the heather of Glencoe.

IAN CRICHTON SMITH

1967 Mod and Development Fund

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Gabh gur math riubh

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Fear an Tighe 'sa Bhean

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THE DIRECTOR

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BLIGHT WARNING

Blight favourable weather has occurred in several areas, including Prestwick. In the West, main crops still need protection, but second earlies being saved for seed should be burned down now, so as to allow at least two weeks' delay before lifting.

In the North, the heavy rain and recent humid conditions call for protective spraying, with the expectation that their destructive treatment, especially of seed, can begin in about another fortnight.

The East Lothian reports traces of blight in crops in Berwickshire, East Lothian and Fife, and in both East and North Infection, at least in some such cases, has come from dumps which have not been properly dealt with. Spraying should be continued in the East at regular intervals, especially where heavy rain has washed off previous treatment.

CROFTERS SEEK RIGHT TO BUY THEIR LAND

The Federation of Crofters Unions are to press the Secretary of State for Scotland for legislation to enable crofters to become their own landlords, if they so desire. A resolution to this effect was adopted by the federation at Inverness at the week-end.

Land has been changing hands in the Highlands for holiday homes, caravan sites and so on at fantastic prices, it was claimed at the meeting, and crofters should be allowed to share in the development values.

At present, if a crofter's land is compulsorily acquired on application by the landlord to the Scottish Land Court, the crofter only receives compensation at the agricultural value, which is very low.

"Fair Price"

The resolution states that a crofter, if he wishes, should have the same right as his landlord to apply to have his croft taken out of crofting tenure. In exchange the landlord should be paid a

Keith Murdoch,
Pimainn Beag,
Kingussie.

Inverness-shire.

BUS TOUR

She never looked out of the window once—the lady in front of me—as we passed through country with character and moors—not seen before.

The usual stodge crowd sat—waiting for the coffee-break—watching idly the landscape from the best seat they could get in the morning rush to the bus.

But up front two foreigners made the best of the tour—al eagerly looking out—seeing the scope of the country. Apart from one bright ten-year-

old girl sitting quaint and laughing these two show justification for joining the tour. The miles and the day were worthwhile, watching loch and heather.

But as for the rest of the party—I'd rather spend a month on a moor.

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purchase price determined by the land court.

A spokesman said: "Crofting legislation is too biased in favour of the landlord in respect of acquisition of croftland for purposes other than crofting. The crofter should have the opportunity to buy his croft for reasonable purposes at a reasonable price."

Inverness Art Society

The 23rd Annual Exhibition of the Inverness Art Society, on view in Inverness Town Hall, gives evidence of the fund of real talent in the field of the visual arts which exists in and around the Highland Capital.

A wide range of media has been used to convey to the on-looker scenes, situations and impressions which are nothing if not professional. Many of the exhibitors are amateurs, though this status does not show in their work. Indeed, if the rising generation (whose works are in the Town Library across the way) study this aspect, they need have no fear that they cannot continue the tradition of rising standards which the Art Society of Inverness has been seeing over the past few years.

It is difficult to pull out from the 168 exhibits any one picture which might be called the best. For many of the pictures, and sculptures and ceramics, easily qualify for this distinction, so high is the standard. And, of course, personal reaction to a work counts in its choice as a favourite.

One might pick out the Highland scenes, of which there are not perhaps too many. "Lewis Landscape," by Georgi Byiers; "From Rebeg," by Ray Lawson; "Marso," by George Pearson; and "Scaladale River," by Margaret Thompson. But there are others: "The Cock," by Ray Lawson, stands out for choice; and "Autumn Thought," by Mrs J. M. Hill, is another more abstract picture which does give food for thought.

All in all, one looks forward to the next show of works by the Inverness Society of artists. If they can improve on this year's showing they are talented indeed.



IRELAND TO-DAY

Five New Factories

(By Our Eire Correspondent)

New factories will be opening soon in five counties—at Ennis-corthy; Mill Street, Co. Cork; Mullingar; Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan, and Walkinstown, Co. Dublin.

Ennis-corthy: The company of Herr Gerhard Roester, which employs 700 workers in Germany and Belgium, will make night-dresses and pyjamas for export to Europe. Forty are already employed in temporary premises. A permanent single-storey building will be erected this year. There will be 200 employed when full production is reached.

Miltrest: Celtic Toys Ltd., launched by an American, Mr Eric Hackett, will employ forty to make souvenirs, soft toys and plastic dolls, largely for export.

Mullingar: A Dutch firm, Douwe Egberts, Koninklijke Faoricken N.V. of Utrecht which was established in 1753, will make pipe tobacco for export. Nearly 100 people will be employed.

Ballyjamesduff: The building is almost ready for the factory of the German wallpaper firm, Norddeutscher Tapetenfabrik, Hee-locher and Breimer, of Lagen-hagen. Local workers will be sent to Britain for training and another 40, mostly men, will be employed.

Walkinstown: Durie and Miller (Holdings) Limited, London, will specialise in electronic power control units at their new plant. It will employ forty. The firm established the Somerville-Roberts factory at Walkinstown in 1959, and it has been successful.

Gaeltacht Numbers Down

The 1966 Census figures show that the population of the (Gaeltacht has fallen from 78,416 to 72,706 since 1961. In 1956, it was 85,713. This drop has occurred during a period when the over-all population of the Twenty-six Counties has risen by 62,411.

The largest Gaeltacht loss has been in Donegal with the Glenties area falling from 13,957 to 12,430. There were also losses in the Cork, Galway, Kerry and Mayo areas, but slight increases in Waterford, Barna and Spiddal.

The Irish-speaking islands off the west and north coasts have suffered. Two Clare islands, Green Island and Saints Island, now have only one inhabitant. Of course, efforts are being made to prevent this loss continuing.

By next winter, the 70 cottages on Tory Island, nine miles off the Co. Donegal coast, will have electricity.

The 256 Irish-speaking islanders have 33-year-old Seamus Rogers to thank for this. Single-handed and in his spare time, he built a generating plant near his home. For the first time these people can have television and electric irons.

Seamus worked for some seasons on building sites in Scotland and England. He has three children. His wife, Katie, is the sub-postmistress, and he has the mailboat contract from the mainland.

Most of the men are fishers on this historic little island, which votes a week before the rest of the country at election time lest high seas might hold-up the ballot boxes.

CRUDE OIL PIPELINE FROM FINNART TO GRANGE-MOUTH

Authority to construct a new 20-inch diameter crude oil pipeline between Finnart Ocean Terminal and Grangemouth Refinery has been given by British Petroleum by Mr Richard Marsh, Minister of Power. The pipeline, which will be 57 miles long, will replace the existing 12-inch diameter pipeline, and will cater for a proposed increased capacity at the Grangemouth Refinery.

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CHILDREN'S FOOTWEAR FASHIONS

Kids have it going for their Autumn — buckles, bows and brogging adorn their shoes. At last they can come home after school is out and put on shoes that are not just a variation of their everyday ones.

Toy lads there are slip-ons with elastic under the vamp — just like dads. Brogging is popular for the bigger boys and there are light grained casuals, Chelsea and side zipped boots.

The fashion conscious miss has two-tone patents in red, blue, black and the latest fashion colour 'tan'. There are also slim slacks, casuals with culottes from all in gay cheerful colours.

And last but not least for the tiny tot silver party shoes with buckles on high tabbed vamp that will keep her tiny feet dancing.

Materials and Colours

Two tone patent in blue and black, tan and black, suede in red, blue and all shades of brown. Red is once again favourite for leather with blue a close second and of course brown or black for school. Grained and ribbed leathers are becoming popular for youngsters.



PASTRY PUDDINGS

Cornish Syrup Tart

ROUGH PUFF PASTRY: 5 oz. butter; 8 oz. flour (sieved); a pinch of salt; a few drops lemon juice; ¼ pint water. **FILLING:** 3 oz. breadcrumbs; grated rind and juice of one lemon; ¼ lb. golden syrup.

TO DECORATE: egg white; little icing sugar.

To make pastry, cut butter into lumps ½ inch square, add mix with flour. Add salt and lemon juice, and water to make a firm dough. Form carefully into an oblong and roll to 3 in. Fold top and bottom and middle thirds to form an envelope, half turn. Roll, fold and turn 4 more times. Leave pastry for 20 minutes then divide it into two. Line a small Yorkshire pudding tin with one half. To make filling, mix breadcrumbs, lemon rind, juice and syrup together. Put into pastry, and roll second half of pastry to cover. Seal edges. Brush with egg white. Leave for 15 minutes. Bake in a very hot oven (Gas No. 8—450°F.) for 20 minutes, then reduce heat to Gas No. 6—375°F. for a further 15 minutes. Remove from tin, and sprinkle with icing sugar. Serve hot or cold. (4-6 servings).

STRAWBERRY CASTLES

RICH SHORTCRUST PASTRY: 4 oz. plain flour (sieved); 2½ oz. butter; 1 level teaspoon castor sugar; ½ egg yolk, cold water.

FILLING: 1 pint double cream; 1 level teaspoon castor sugar; 4 oz. strawberries.

TO DECORATE: little icing sugar. Make pastry in the usual way. Roll

to ¼ inch thickness. Using 3 fluted cutters, approximately 3 inches, 2½ inches and 1½ inches, cut 4 circles with each. Bake in a fairly hot oven (Gas No. 6—400°F.) for 15 minutes, until golden. Cool. Whip cream and sugar. Cut up all except 4 strawberries, and mix in. Put filling between large and medium, and medium and small circles to make 4 castles. Top each with a strawberry and lightly dredge with icing sugar. (4 servings).

It is, I suppose, one thing to recognise in a small boy the natural



desire to do something just for the sake of getting dirty — and another to sense that there are some boyish interests which might get him dirty but which are, in fact, pointers to a mechanical bent. Just like our lad in the photograph.

Child psychologists will claim that mechanical interests will show themselves in a boy at a very early age. This is true. Our Ewan almost from the first took things to pieces and then got upset when he couldn't put them together again, though he succeeded eventually. His father found an old wall electric switch in the garage and gave it to Ewan. This toy — though to Ewan it was more than just a toy — was a constant companion for weeks on end. 'Lights' were being switched on and off and it was obvious that the switch, which had a screw-off cover, was more precious than a few toy animals which now lay neglected in the toy box.

Later he showed a deep interest

in building blocks, building houses and bridges and the like; and putting them in a line on the floor and pushing them along like a train. After that we just had to get him a snap-on block set of the Lego type.

This is his present occupation, making a range of likenesses that shows his imagination off to good effect.

His ability with his hands has helped him to improve his use of the knife and fork at table, for instance.

Cutting with a knife is always something difficult for a child to appreciate. They can usually manage the sawing action; but to press-down at the same time seems an extra task not easy to pick up.

Which gets us thinking that we'll have to look around the toy market for constructional toys, with small-boy size screwdrivers, and other such 'daddy' tools. All to add to his learning and keep his interest in the things around him; what they do, what they're made of, and how they work.

So the next time your lad is found tinkering with the lawnmower, or with your floor cleaner in bits, with the usual to be expected modicum of dirt, don't be too hard on him. For his early interest may, if encouraged, helm him to clear his mind at a later date when a career or job for him must be discussed.

And heaven knows! That time comes soon enough.

BRUSH UP YOUR GAELIC

with Tormod

(A series of lessons on basic Gaelic)

Under each Gaelic sentence or phrase you will find an English translation and a guide to pronunciation.

Th = singular or familiar form.

Sibh = plural or polite form.

Lesson 9

Bha mi anns a' chaidin
Vaa me awns uh chitchin.
I was in the kitchen.

Bha sinn trang.
Vaa sheen trang.
We were busy.

Bha thu a muih.
Vaa oo uh moo-ee.
You were out.

An robh e trang? Bha.
An raw eh trang? Vaa.
Was he busy? Yes.

An robh sibh aig an tigh?
An raw sheeh eg un ta-ee?
Were you (pl.) at home?

Cha robh iad leige.
Cha raw ee-ud lay-ishk.
They were not lazy.

Faclan ùra
Faclan òra

New words
coire deilghan pana greideal
korra jay-yan pan-uh gray-dyul
kettle refrigerator pan girdle
meas-us oo bawnach
mias ugh bonnach
basin egg scone

A CHOMHDAIL CHEILTEACH

Bha riochdairean as na sia nioghachdan. Cheilteach ann an Cardiff air an t-seachdainn a' chur aig cur an cinn comhla mu chear casaidh, duthcha is ceol. Se an t-Irìl MacGalmair a Alba an Ceann Suidhe am bliadhna. Rinn a Mhn. Uas Beithid Nic-leid as an Flean Seitheanach oraid innteach air a bhith teag- gaidhig am bun spoil. Thug a Mhn. Uas Anna NicCoinnich cool is gairdeach, cianalas is bron nan Gaidhiall am follais ann an oraid chomhach a' bhuaill air Tagore, Dvorak, Sibelius agus Mendelssohn agus sheinn Kirsteen Grand, Beithid Nic-leid, Iain MacKath, Donald Nicoleoid agus Domhnall Iain MacAoidh orain mar eisimpleir.

Rinn Domhnall I. MacAoidh oraid mu Leasachadh na Gaidhealtach agus bha e far comhair gun robh leasachadh a dol air adhart mar a bha doigh beatha an t-sluagh aig atharrachadh. Bha cus feann air a Ghaidealtachd fo rìth-ine agus thug e rabhadh nach biodh adhart ann gu 'n drachadh moran calp aig a' chair a stigh ris a' Ghaidealtachd leis an Rìghalachd mar a rinnadh an aitean eile. Be £180 an ceann a bhata a' coimhead air a' Ghaidealtachd an coimeas ri £242 air feadh Alba, £288 sa Chumrigh is £309 ann an Sasainn.



Is leagh orm "Tights is mair-kirts."

BAHA' FAITH

Oneness of Mankind.
"There can be no doubt whatsoever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from the one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God."

Further information and Gaelic pamphlet is available from application to the Local Secretary, 42 Island Bank Road, Inverness.

SHOP WINDOW FOR CROFTING COUNTIES

The Highlands and Islands Development Board have given the seven crofting counties a shop window in Inverness where they can display and, if they wish, sell a wide range of the goods manufactured in their areas. The shop display unit is at 9 Upper Bridge Street, and each of the seven counties has been offered its facilities free for a fortnight.

A Board spokesman said yesterday: "This shop is part of our accommodation, and it seemed a pity not to make good use of it. This seemed the best possible idea. Inverness has a heavy passing through trade at this time of year, and this gives manufacturers from some of the more re-

mote areas the chance of a central location."

Mr Stuart Donald, County Development Officer for Shetland, who will be sharing the shop with Orkney for the next fortnight, said yesterday: "We think this is a marvellous gesture on the part of the Board, and we shall be making the fullest possible use of the opportunity. We hope that trade buyers will come to see the wide variety of Shetland goods on offer. We are taking this very seriously, and our range of products should have the maximum range of appeal."

Mr Robert Strachan, County Development Officer for Orkney said: "We also think this is a

wonderful idea, and regard it as an opportunity not to be missed. We shall be making the most of it."

Sutherland and Argyll will already made use of the facilities provided by the Board.

SCOTTISH SAVINGS DOWN

The National Savings Committee for Scotland announces that gross National Savings in Scotland during the week ended 5th August 1967 amounted to £5,083,173 — a decrease of £177,826 on the corresponding week last year. The total gross National Savings in Scotland for the eighteen weeks ended 5th August, 1967 amounted to £120,062,601

Oisean na Clòtne

IX. ... LUTHAS AGUS LUATHAS

A NEAD NA H-OILAIRE

AS NA SGOILTEAN 6. Tuilleadh A Sgoil A Ghearraidh Uibhist-a-Tuath

COMHRADH

COMHRADH



cean a' tuiceman mu chluasan tharr e ac'ho luath 's a bha 'na chnàman agus anall teth an tarbh air cùl na b-hannach aige. Rinn e air a' gheata astar a' bhà garbh, an tarbh air a' shàil agus an fhearg ga dhalladh. "Mo chreach" arsa Caillean ri fhéin, "tha 'n cùbhadh dearg a' tioras a' cur an fhear ud. Cha do thuing e riagh gur ann ri spòrs a' bha mi. Ach tha mise tuilleadh 's seolta air a' shean Bhidh mi." Bha an t-àrd a' gheata mu fhaigh e faisg ort."

"Ach cha robh Caillean truaigh cho sgìobalta 's bhà e 'na dhùil. Agus sin na 'n gearr a' chaidh, agus sin na 'n gearr na chaidh ann maor troimh Gharabost, ach feuch thusa am faighdeadh e air fhosgladh. Is fhrosadh gasta bhà fhosgladh an uair nach eil cabhag ort ach 'se rud eile th' ann faighinn air fhosgladh agus tarbh mu crosta na dhearg dhean as do dh'fhoghladh. Tha ann a' gheata air a' casan aige a' leagadh na ballachan Ròmanach. Cha robh aig Caillean bochd air ach cumail air riagh riagh a' tioras a' tuig a' fear aig na h-Olympics, agus an tarbh mosach 'a' cumail air, 's' a' slor chasach air. Thug e mis' - 'na bha 'na h'ann aig - as cumar anns robh e. "Gu déidh tha mise dol a' dheanadh" arsa ean ri fhéin, "ciamar air an-aon t-àrd bhean as do dh'fhoghladh as do adhaircean agus o chasan mac nà bà? Mura bheil an anail aige nas giorra na 'n anail agamsa, agus chan eil mi 'n dùil gu 'n gabh sin a' bhith. Tha mi ullam, Tomas bochd, nach e bitheas brònach an uair a' chluineas e mar a' dh'èirech dhòmhsa." Nach mise bhà feon nach do ghabh mi an deagh chomhairle bhà e toirt orm agus nach do dh'fhuirich mi aig an tigh! Bidh mi 'nam phronnagan an ceartuair aig a' bhéist tha' so, mura fas e sgìth, agus chan fhàs. Dh' i' th e cu sio-coirce fad a' gheamhraidh agus chos mise tuilleadh 's cu sio-coirce fad a' gheamhraidh. (Tha fhios gu 'n toir Caillean ceir e fhéin as 'a' chunnart so neo, mura toir e e fhéin as, gu 'n toir cudeigin eile as e. Chi sinn mar thuir e an dall).

mhò theagal agam roimh dhùine gheall. Cuirdh mise fadard a' Tarmod Tarbh. Tha eagal dearg a' bheatha aige romhamsa."

"Nach ann agad gu dearb' tha 'n beacht ort fhéin?" freagair Tomas. "Thusa sin a' gabhail ort a' dhol an ceir beathaich a' phronnadh to cho min ri min-choirde e aona dh' adhaircean; Ach de math dhòmhsa bhith bruidhinn? Chan eisd tha riomsa co dhùibh, agus 's ann dhùil fhéin as misa bhith a' chuis."

"Gu dearb' fhéin chan eisd. Co 'idir a' dh' eisdadh ri bà? Bhealadh air gu dòigh a' bheithes agada? Ach cha toir sin no rud eile ort a' bhàd sanach. Much as mo radhath 's' gu fagh mi làn mo spòige air an fhear ud. Bheir mis' air gu'm bi bùirich mhàir air mas sgur mise bhà."

"Tha mach a' ghabh' caillean le phioibh 'na phluc agus bàta mór cromagach 'na spòig. Sios leig g'he, pàirce mhòr an tuathanach; Dh' fhosgal e 'n grata, ghabh e steach, agus dhùin e gu dòigheil a' a' dheidh e."

Bha Tarmod Tarbh na laighe gu domhail stòla, an messa' a' chruith, a' enàmh a' chire agus a' n' deidh 's' leor foir ithe. Cha robh dad air an t-saoghail 'a' cur dragh air, agus gu dearb' cha robh e fhéin ag iarraidh dragh a chur air duine no air beathaich. B' hada ghabh e bhuaithne. Bha ann a' latha cho bregtha agus cha robh am fear a' riagh cho gorm agus cho mielis. Ach cha b' dh' a' rhuair a' chùis mar so. Fad' ealaidh Caillean an a' shochair a' dheidh a' null far an robh Tarmod, thog e 'm bàta an a' chionn agus dh'urring e air Tarmod truaigh e a' leige nàit mu tholl na cluaise."

"Gonadh air na cailleanan grànda, gu 'n sin, arsa Tarmod, 's' e agus tuigsinn d' bàta tachairt, nach iadsan a' bhà 'n Tigh Iain Ghrota!"

Thug e crathadh cruaidh air earball agus teicheadh a chur air an ruba a' chur dragh air agus sud 's' ann a' fhuair e an a' th bhillie mu thaobh a' chur. Dh' fhogail e a' shruaiche, sheall o' m' cuairt, agus dhearc e air Caillean. Agus e rothan a' b' umhannasach a' dèan leum e air a' chos nà."

"An tusa tha 's' a' pheasain an uic?" arsa ean. "ma bheirais mis' ort, cuiridh mi 'n ceann 's' na casan dhiot. A' bhraideigin air nàite, 's' bu tusa sin, a' tighinn an so a' chur dragh ort a' dheidh 's' cho tric 's' a' thug mi rabhadh dhàid a' null far an robh Tarmod. Mura toir tu 'n deachaidh ort 'n mheanidh uarach bheir mis' ort 'm' bi tu d'úsaghd anns a' mhadainn am malreach gun g'hanas, gun sin, agus earball 's' Bha gnothaichean air a' bhith math gu leòr na 'n robh Caillean air dèanamh mar a' dh' àithn am fear eile dhè - ach cha b' e' sin a' chur buò 'n tigh e. Thug e ionnsaidh eile air an tarbh leis a' bhata, ach mi arbh, chaidh ean as dh'èirigh a' chur e shron dh' e 'n talamh agus earball dha 'n adhar, agus leig e nuallan as a' bhadh, agus fhac. Thòisich Caillean air dèanamh 's' a' cleachdadh air a' bheutlaich ach an uair a' chunnain e cop gael a' tighinn a' beul Tarmod agus a' dh' fhaireach e frasdhe na phluc a' bhà am fear sin a' togail le chasan agus le adhair-

cear a' tuiceman mu chluasan tharr e ac'ho luath 's a bha 'na chnàman agus anall teth an tarbh air cùl na b-hannach aige. Rinn e air a' gheata astar a' bhà garbh, an tarbh air a' shàil agus an fhearg ga dhalladh. "Mo chreach" arsa Caillean ri fhéin, "tha 'n cùbhadh dearg a' tioras a' cur an fhear ud. Cha do thuing e riagh gur ann ri spòrs a' bha mi. Ach tha mise tuilleadh 's seolta air a' shean Bhidh mi." Bha an t-àrd a' gheata mu fhaigh e faisg ort."

Do You Know?

- 1. For what is Cawdor Castle traditionally noted?
- 2. What is the original meaning of the surname Galbraith?
- 3. Where lies the greatest length of the mainland of Scotland?
- 4. What is the Gaelic for 'Pan-cake.' Loireg or Folleg?
- 5. 'Iarraidh Braich Buirn' no 'Iarraidh Mac-nà-Braiche 'n deach' agus am bheil an duil an-tiarr?
- 6. Co as tha Fionnghal NicNeill a' chluineadh gur tric a' seinn air a' Bh.C.B.C?

Answers

- 1. Tradition tells us that it has been the scene of the murder of King Duncan by Macbeth.
- 2. Galbraith, in Gaelic 'Mac a Breatainich,' literally means 'son of the Briton.'
- 3. From Cape Wrath to the Mull of Galloway - 274 miles.
- 4. Both words mean Pancake.
- 5. Iarraidh. An deidh oidhche mhòr Feumaidh duine deach.
- 6. A Eilean Bharraich.

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"Feuch an cuir thu dhìot an t-saoghach gun chiall 'th' sin," arsa Tomas. 's e toirt suil mhì-thoilliche air Caillean Caillean, 's' ann a' shaoildeadh dùine gur e fear dhè na gillein Gallda tha sud a' bhithes a' tighinn air a' bhàt- bheiseig a' bh' annad, a' n' fear a' bheithes a' dol a' mach air Oidhech Shamhna. Thusa 's do sheacaid dhearg 's do bhriogais chaoil, gu dearb' agus 'a' carball fada gibeach! Càite bheil romhad a' dhol co-dhùibh, leis an trusgan mhì-chiatach sin!"

"Tha e glè chòtlach gu feuch thusa a' h-uile rud fhaghinn mach, co-dhùibh 's' do ghnòthach a' bheithes ann agus nach e - agus mar is tric chan e - agus mar is the d'chreach a chear, cho math d' d' d' th' an t-àrd a' chur Tarmod Tarbh a' dearg chochull a' chridhe - sin agada an rud a' tha mi dol a' dhèanamh. Nach mi gheibh an spòrs air? Agus nach ann air a' bheithes an fhear an uair a' thuigeas e gur mise bhà tarruing as! Cha t'ug e ma theanais riagh dhomh o' n' tursas a' thug mi grom as a' chlàis agus e 'na shuain ann am pàirce nan gamhna."

"Seadh d'ireach," arsa Tomas, agus e toirt suil mhì-thoilliche air Caillean. Mar is tric a' thug, "seadh d'ireach."

"Chan e seadh d'ireach, no d'ireach seadh," freagair Caillean, "agus g' bheil mise faghinn a' chur an eagail air Tarmod Tarbh."

"Tha mi tuigsinn, tha mi tuigsinn," freagair Tomas. "A' bheithes mar is bhàit' a' chur romhad thu fhéin a' chur ann an cunnart do bheatha airson dragh is talmait a' chur air beathaich nach eil a' cur ann a' ghabh bith ort fhéin. Chan iongnadh leam nàire bhith ort. Gu dearb' is math a' chur riagh nach eil Tarmod Tarbh cho faisg gu 's tha mise 'n ceartuair. Bheir mise mo ghealladh dhù nach bheithes ann balach sin fada 'a' cur smùid na na h-itean agada."

"Agus co' ris tha thusa smòineachadh a' tha thu a' bruidhinn?" arsa Caillean. "A' bheithes 'n' dùil gur e calman no speurach a' th' annamsa." Càite bheil na h-itean agas na sgiathan, agus càite bheil an gob? Feumaidh gu bheil thusa fas dall agus g' bheil mise faghinn de leughadh air na paipercan gun tiachd tha sin."

"Gu dearb' cha do shaoil mise riagh gu robh thusa co-dh' ri calman no ri smòraich," freagair am fear eile. "'s ann ri ròcas no ri fitheach as coltaiche agus de' n' aduirt a' chloideuch, ach a' lachann, ma tha e dhìth, ort bheil coltach ri na h-eòin - agus co' riagh nach cu'la e dh'èirigh a' th' annamsa 's' a' th' iadsan - 'bheithes e gu ma' feumaidh dhùt sgiathan a' bhith ort ma' th' dhol ann ad balach thairbh chear. A' bhithes ann ad b' d' e' d' ma' chionn fhad, agus f' e' d' math b'iorach cuideachd, agus gu dearb' chan eil cion earball ort - agus cha bhòidheach e."

"S e tha ceàrr, ortsa gu bheil eagal do bhòidheach ort a' dhol a' dh' àite sam' bhih anns am bi chuan. Bheil fhios agad air?' Chan eil agad agamsa f' e' d' bheithes air an t-saoghail 's' eha

Dh' i' th e cu sio-coirce fad a' gheamhraidh agus chos mise tuilleadh 's cu sio-coirce fad a' gheamhraidh. (Tha fhios gu 'n toir Caillean ceir e fhéin as 'a' chunnart so neo, mura toir e e fhéin as, gu 'n toir cudeigin eile as e. Chi sinn mar thuir e an dall).

ceir: "Bantrach mu thri fichead bliadhna a dh' aois, nach eil airson solus 'n dealain a' ghabhail. Domhull (Fear stiùirdhùbhair an dealain).

Ceir: "A' coimhead a mach air an umneig."

Co tha 'n tighian a so? Tha d'ireach fear an dealain 'a' coiseachd a' stigh gun gnogadh).

Uill a' Cheir is ciamar a' tha s'ibh an duigh?

Ceir: Tha gu math tapadh leibh. De tha faineir dhùibh an duigh?

Domhull: Tha mi airson faighinn a mach an do dh' a' tharraich sibh bhur n' inntinn mu' dealain.

Ceir: Gu cinnteach chan eil mi air m'intinn atharrachadh mu sholus an dealain.

Domhull: Chan eil dad ceair air, a' Cheir.

Ceir: Tha gu leor ceair air. Is cha bh' sibhse a' coiseachd a' stigh do'n tigh agamsa gun an dorus a' ghnogadh.

Domhull: Chan eil mise a' dol a' dh' eisdachd ri do beulsa idir.

Ceir: Nam biodh tusa modhail cha n'ann tu sin riomsa.

Domhull: Eisd, a' Cheir, tha mise ag radh riut nam faigheadh tusa an dealan, agus gach giorras a' tha dol leis, nach biodh car agad ri d'eanamh.

Ceir: Tha mi ag radh riut m'fhacal mu d'heireadh. Chan eil mi dol ga ghabhail.

Domhull: Siubhad, a' Cheir, gabh e.

Ceir: Cha toir thu far mo chosan idir mi. B' falbh na sin.

Domhull: Chan eil agad ach an cridhe cruaidh a' Cheir.

Ceir: Tha mi coma ged a' bhiodh an teid sin agam, fhad's nach tig orm dealachd ri da cheud pund Sasunnach. Latha math leibh.

Domhull: (gu tursach) "Hi ho ro na Boireannach! 'S gu chuthrom a' chur a' fhear sin."

FLORA J. MACDONALD
Primary 6
Tigharry Primary School
North Uist.

Dh' i' th e cu sio-coirce fad a' gheamhraidh agus chos mise tuilleadh 's cu sio-coirce fad a' gheamhraidh. (Tha fhios gu 'n toir Caillean ceir e fhéin as 'a' chunnart so neo, mura toir e e fhéin as, gu 'n toir cudeigin eile as e. Chi sinn mar thuir e an dall).

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On the other hand . . .

Scotland's Links with Other Celtic Countries. By Ian G. MacNair.

It is neither sociable nor wise to remain isolated and it would be a pity if Scotland neglected establishing contact with its own family of nations. The one I am referring to here belongs to the Brythonic group of Celtic languages, most akin to Breton and Welsh, namely, Cornwall.

We recognise family likenesses in both its culture, landscape and customs. We have the heather-covered moors, especially the Bodmin moors in the centre and in the West, while on the south coast there are numerous "creeks" rather similar to Lochs, except that they are only of interest at high tide among the smaller ones, for at low tide they are mud banks, but at high tide reflect the beautiful wooded banks.

The north coast, as it lies on the rougher Atlantic, is more suitable for holidaymakers as the south coast is much calmer.

Another link we have in the character of Cornwall is the character of Tristan and Isolde in the masterpiece of Cornish literature: *Mistard and Isolde*. This belongs more to the realms of reality than fiction. Its fictional character lies only in its outward form, but its inner spirit seems to depict the essence of the Celtic character. It is a portrait of a deep and powerful love drama tinged with the wild Celtic melancholy of heartrending suffering. This does not mean that we have here a product of masochism.

Non-Celts have accused us of this, but there is no foundation for supposing that we love suffering for its own sake or artificially stimulate sadness. It is not that we suffer more than other countries, but we beautify it and canalise it into poetic channels.

We are not contrary to the Scriptures in this, that say "Utristitia ibi sapientia." To attempt to by-pass or ignore sorrow would be living in a fool's paradise and never secure our entry into the real one.

There is nothing trivial or petty in this terrible human tragedy, but it would be superficial to dwell on its sad ending, for whether a story ends happily or otherwise is not what concerns us so much as the message it conveys. It is rather the theme of *Metastasio's* dramas: namely, that the real tragedy does not depend on outward circumstances but on ourselves. It is quite the contrary of determinism or fatalistic Greek drama. In *Tristan and Isolde*, the outcome was tragic because the lovers were deceived by appearances, and did not "judge past judgment," and refuse to yield to despair in spite of such adverse circumstances. Even if everything seems to be against us, as long as God is with us there is nothing to fear, though there is no immediate satisfaction.

Cornwall has no need to invent suffering for literary inspiration. In history there has been enough at hand. At the Reformation, Cornwall waged war on England on account of being forcibly deprived of their religion, language and customs. It was not led by the nobles, but was a spontaneous uprising of the simple country people against oppressors, and was only finally defeated through the English employing German and Italian mercenaries. Later came Wesleyism, but this at least was inspired by idealism, not just the greed for booty and domination.

The annual summer school for Cornish is followed by the Gwedd celebrations. We owe this linguistic revival to Moreton Nance, who revived the Cornish

language after over two centuries of silence.

It is perhaps no coincidence that the national sport of Cornwall should be wrestling, as this is found in another part of Celtic origin, namely, Cumberland. Then we have the Cornish fondness for singing and dancing, such as the "turkey dances," and there is the revived Cornish black kilt, Cornwall is as fond of colour as other Celts, but they are near Puritan Plymouth!

AIR FARES INCREASE Social Factors Ignored

The recent increases in air fares in Scotland have been criticised on all sides by many differing interests. In particular, the arm-iminded Highland traveller will find it necessary to dig deeper into his pocket to pay for his way if he goes by air, a mode of transport vitally necessary in the Highlands area.

In granting the increases, it was pointed out by the licensing board that the B.E.A. proposals recognised that some of their services were "social" services. But it had no statutory obligation to continue these while they were being subsidised from surpluses on other B.E.A. services.

It was also pointed out that these services which fulfilled a social need should be supported from public funds, in so far as deficits should be made good, so that B.E.A. could show an overall profit in its operations.

The increases take effect after September 1st this year.

It is of interest that the Seilly Islands have the same air problems as the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland. An approach has been made to B.E.A. by a private airline to take over these "social loss-making" services and make a profit.

Letters to the Editor

over to you:

59 Woodland Road,
Naisea, Bristol,
August 18, 1967.

Dear Sir,

These are disturbing times for the Celtic and Nordo-Celtic peoples of the British Isles. We are all familiar, for instance, with the recent tyrannical Westminster interference in the domestic legislation of the Isle of Man, and the very real grievances of our people in Scotland, Ulster and Wales by now add up to a formidable list, with little or no sign of proper redress in any quarter.

There is a danger that, even in the Celtic lands, no small brother nation may be so far removed as to be "out of sight, and out of mind." I refer to the old land of the "Cornwells," as the Saxon called them, and would remind your readers of the existence of their stout-hearted national movement, *Mebyon Kernow—Sons of Cornwall*.

Already, they are faced with the loss of any say in their local government functions, due to the proposed removal of these functions to offices in Bristol as part of a plan to "rationalise" local government by coalescing several western counties into a single large administrative unit. *Mebyon Kernow* have fought tooth and nail for the creation of their own *Cuntelles Kernow* (Cornish Assembly), against crushing and all-powerful opposition from Westminster. As a most recent example of the unrelenting attitude of the Saxon government, their request to have a Cornish regional stamp issued, and on the same basis as regional postage stamps in the United Celtic countries in the United

Kingdom, has been flatly refused. Of all the Celtic lands and peoples, the Cornish seem certain to have the toughest uphill fight in front of them to obtain official recognition of their ancient national status, and the establishment of their right to govern their own domestic affairs. Let us not forget them, and by all means let us offer them every possible moral and practical support that we can muster.—Yours etc,

T. G. SMITH,

63 Westfield Road,
Surliton,
Surrey.

AN COMMUN AGUS
A' GHÀIDHLIG

Fhair Dheasachaidh Mheasail,
Fhair mise moran speis — "An Communn Gàidhealach agus A' Ghàidhlig" (Sruth, Di-Ardoin 10, An Lunsadal, 1967). Tha An Communn Gàidhealach a' deanamh moran oibre math air sgath cànan dùthchasach na h-Alba gu dearbh agus tha moran baraillean math aige cuideachd. Co dhiubh, cha bhì buaidh leis a' chùis Ghàidhlig gus am bi aising ur aig an fheadhainn a tha miannachadh a' bheòthachadh Ghàidhlig. Cha bhì ar cànan iannan bhinn sàbhailte gus am bi i air teanga gach neach ann an Alba bho Dhum-Fris gu Inbhir Theorsa, agus an teid a bruidhinn gach latha air sraidean nan bailtean mora.

Feumaidh communn Gàidhlig uile agus cruth-shuidheachaidh dùthchais uile (mar An Communn Gàidhealach agus S.N.P.) obreachadh dlùth ri cheile a dh' (Continued on Page Twelve)

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Deserted Hebridean Islands

(Continued from page 5)

steward of St Kilda who lives in Pabbay, is accustomed in times of storm to tie a bundle of puddings made of the fat of sea-fowl to the end of his cable, and (he lets it fall into the sea behind the rudders, this, he says, hinders the waves from breaking and calms the sea; but the scent of the grease attracts the whales, which put the vessel in danger."

Another island off North Uist is Hermetra. This was once the scene of Charles I's plan to develop the Hebridean fisheries. Buildings were erected, and stores built for fish and salt. The schemes failed because of the civil wars.

Heisger is a group of five islands ten miles off the west coast of North Uist. One hundred and fifty years ago there were 18 families on the islands. Earlier, in 1595, it could produce 20 men of military age. In 1764 the population was 70. In 1880 it had 1000 head of cattle, as well as sheep. By 1942 there were only two families, compared with a peak population of 135 in 1891. By 1951 the island group was deserted; and no one lived even in the lighthouse erected in 1864. The light ceased being lit in 1937.

To talk of islands once populated and now deserted, indeed to see and visit them, is often depressing. One thinks about the reasons for their desertion: remoteness, lack of the basic essentials for a comfortable life, lack of essential communications. Islands still have an attraction, however. And there are many islands in the Hebrides, indeed around the coasts of Scotland, which well repay a visit.

The National Trust cruises to some of the islands in the north of Scotland are worth taking up. Only a few of the islands which have been deserted for one reason or another have been mentioned here. There are literally hundreds of islands which once heard human voices within the confines of their small horizons, but which now are silent except for the sound of the sea which made them islands in the first place, and the cries of sheep and birds and seals.

Hebridean islands are often easy to get at. Holidays in the Western Isles could well be a rare event in life; and to visit a small lonely island during a Hebridean

sojourn adds an extra dimension not to be missed, and worth taking up.

SUMMARY OF DESERTED ISLANDS (Hebrides)

Sutherland	...	3
Ross and Cromarty (inshore)	...	11
Outer Hebrides	...	35
Inverness (inshore)	...	9
Argyll	...	20
Arnan, Buie and Ayr	...	2

The maximum recorded population of these islands was in excess of 2,521. As an example of the rapid increase in the island populations, of some 22 islands still populated (in 1961) there was a maximum population of 4150. The 1961 Census recorded 214, a drop to some 5 per cent.

OVER TO YOU

(Continued from page 11)

ionnsuidh a' chrìoch se. Is dith mhor air na comunn Gàidhlig dàthchasach agus cha fèum air na dàthchasach cadhnan 's mo no air Gàidhlig.

Chan urrainn do na Gàidhlig bhà a bhith a' cumail beò fo àlainn Lunnainn agus gu cinnteach chan urrainn do Alba a bhith fhaor agus fion Albannach gu Gàidhlig.

Is Mìse Le Meas agus Mùirn Mhor,

SEUMAS MAC 'A'

GHOBHAINN.

BORD "LEASACHADH" NO DE ?

A Charaidh, — Naidheachd bhoedh gu dearbha a chinnadh sinn 's a' phàipear (Sruth, a' reamh 9). Nan robh sin ceart gu leir (agus tha mi smoinneachadh gu robh), so aigabh ceithir ceistean:

1. An e Bòrd "Leasachadh" aig nach cìl ach Elm gach bliadhna ?

2. An e Bòrd "Leasachadh" a tha bruidhinn gach uile mionaid ri Roy an Fhearainn san Eiseig na St Andrews House, no Oifis na h-Alta a' gach rud ?

3. An e Bòrd "Leasachadh" a tha toilichte factaraidh bhèag ri Roy an Fhearainn san Eiseig a' bheil seach no o'chd caileagan gu bhith ag obair ?

4. An e Bòrd "Leasachadh" a' bheil Gàidhealach air nach-cìl ach daoine bho'n Ghallidach?

Le spic

INBHRI NISEACH

Austen Campbell—Film Maker

The three films shown by Mr Austen Campbell demonstrate the possibilities which films possess as means of instruction. He has already demonstrated this in the way it set talking people who probably never before discussed any serious subjects, and who now greet their friends as a matter of course with "Did you see you film last night on TV?"

Since Mr Campbell has set his sights on telling people about his native Scotland, the reaction of his audience when he first showed his films in the Empire Theatre some weeks ago must have

been gratifying. Mr Campbell says his films are mainly for the visiting tourist, and they certainly lapped up all that he had to offer them, to the extent of turning to glare indignantly at three of us who tried an experimental clap of applause to see what would happen.

The films—"Pipers and A"; "Castles of Scotland" and "Golf"—probably tell some Scots as well quite a lot about Scotland, its music and its tartans which they didn't know before, and for myself I was taken with the idea of calling on history in the shape of painting to help tell the story. Had previously been doubtful of this idea, but, particularly in "Pipers and A," and "Golf" they fit in very well. (And how many visitors from the South, incidentally, would have known that the idea of following a white wattle ball around the house corners on Sunday morning came to them from across their Northern Border?)

In "Castles in Scotland" some of the shots were superb—and so too for ourselves when the films are shown in the Farraline Park Arts Centre—as they will be each Wednesday evening.

Mr Campbell is a sculptor and painter as well as owning his own film company. He left Scotland in 1954 to study art in Mexico City and film making in Canada, then returned to Scotland to set up his own company—making one film a year is his aim.

Lately he has achieved a second ambition—he has bought a house in Scotland for himself and his family. He and his wife have two small children, Mary, five, and Ian who is two. And his wife, he tells me, "is nearly a Red Indian!" being the great-grand-daughter of a Black-foot Indian. The place she was born at is called "Wey Burn". In Scotland that would be "Wee Burn!"

R. A. ROSS.

Increase In Storage Capacity

Tomatin Distillers Co., Ltd., have increased "native health" storage for their Highland malt whisky to over 8,000,000 proof gallons with a fully-racked warehouse capable of holding 1,400,000 p.g.

Equipment of the 330-ft. long, 76 ft. wide and 43 ft. high structure was completed during the distillery's holiday and maintenance close-down in time for the 1967/68 distilling season which opened last week.

Like other fully-racked warehouses already in use within the distillery domain, 15 miles south-east of Inverness, it will accommodate maturing spirit in butts (120 p.g.) and hogsheds (60 p.g.) six-high and seven-high respectively.

Its walls are composed of cement blocks, with a light cream finish, and the asbestos cement sheet roof incorporates translucent panels and ridge ventilators. The warehouse is divided internally into three sections by brick fire walls.

Cost, inclusive of racking, is estimated at £87,000. The main

contractors were Duncan Logan (Builders) Ltd., Inverness.

Tomatin's distillery, Scotland's most productive single source of Highland malt whisky, has a total annual capacity of approximately 2,000,000 p.g.

The plant's long-term storage requirement is thought to lie between 10,000,000 p.g. and 12,000,000 p.g.

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MACLEOD HOTELS LIMITED

Folk Song Competition

NATIONAL MOD, 1967 (GLASGOW)

Entries are invited for the Gaelic Folk Song Competition to be held on Thursday, 5th October 1967, at 11 p.m. in the Albert Ballroom.

Groups, with or without instrumental accompaniment, will consist of not fewer than 3 and not more than 6 members. Two songs to be sung. NO GAELIC TEST. Closing date for entries 22nd September, 1967.

Cash Prizes and Thistle Records Medals

Entries to:—The Director, An Comunn Gàidhealach, Abertarf House, Inverness.

Crofters Compensated

The crofters of Banavie, near Fort William, have received from Cameron of Lochiel a cheque for £2,000. This payment is compensation for 760 acres of thecrofting grazing rights on the Lochiel Estate, being scheduled for re-afforestation.

The cheque was accepted on behalf of the crofters by Mrs A. Campbell, of Camaghal, who is secretary of the Grazing Committee. The money is being used to form the basis of a fund for a regeneration and reseedling scheme on the remainder of the grazings.

The compensation has been at the rate of £24 per acre. The area scheduled for reseedling is estimated to provide grazing for all cattle owned by the shareholders for two to four months. It is The Crofters Commission, who helped to bring the Lochiel scheme to fruition, will give guidance and advice to the grazing committee on the matter of improving the remaining area of grazings.